

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



March 28, 2019

The Honorable Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Hand-delivered.

Governor Inslee:

We are deeply concerned about your recent appearance on a national television show in support of your presidential ambitions, where you equated an employer's desire to grow and create jobs in our state to an act of violence. On The Daily Show, you recently said: "*If you've ever been mugged, you understand what it feels like ... These corporations put a gun to your ribs and say you're going to lose 20,000 jobs unless you get [them] a tax break.*" You also described the employer's actions as akin to committing another crime: "*blackmail.*"

Your recent statements stand in stark contrast from what you said on Nov. 10, 2013: "*This is a great day for everyone in Washington. Winning the 777X will secure tens of thousands of jobs and yield huge economic benefits for generations to come. And it will bolster our state's legacy as the aerospace capital of the world.*" You used similar language to describe the bipartisan legislation, and its benefits to our region, at the bill-signing ceremony you hosted the following day.

As you know, we worked closely with you on this important issue. Your inconsistent words are troubling to us, and likely many Washingtonians. With this in mind, we respectfully request that you answer – in person or in writing – the following questions:

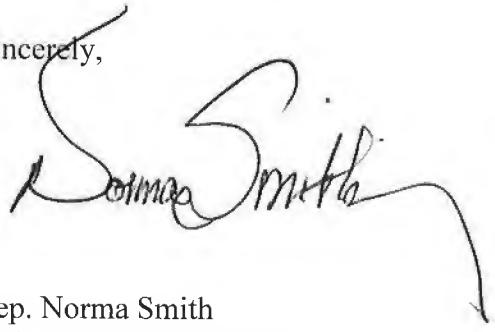
- 1) Did you feel you were being “blackmailed” when you called for a special session, personally pushed for these tax incentives, and hosted a bill-signing ceremony taking credit for the legislation? If so, why did you not share your beliefs with state lawmakers, or the public, at the time?
- 2) If you did not harbor these feelings at the time, when exactly did you arrive at the conclusion you were being “blackmailed?”
- 3) Why did you choose to reveal these feelings publicly on a national television show?
- 4) Finally, it is unclear to us and Washingtonians where exactly you stand on these tax incentives today. Could you clearly explain your position? Are you advocating for their repeal?

We look forward to your answers to these questions, and invite you to come to our caucus to share them.

Beyond this unfortunate situation, we want you to know we have great concerns that your presidential ambitions could have negative repercussions for our state. Your ambitions cannot come at the expense of our state's economy, our communities or our taxpayers. Equating an iconic employer of our region to a mugger is offensive on many levels – including to the employees and families of that employer. It also sends the wrong message to all of the employers in our state, and those who might want to relocate here.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norma Smith".

Rep. Norma Smith
10th Legislative District
(360) 786-7884

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew MacEwen".

Rep. Drew MacEwen
35th Legislative District
(360) 786-7902